Visiting the Zoo's American Trail

National Zoo Social Narrative: American Trail

Smithsonian
National Zoological Park
Conservation Biology Institute

There are many animals to visit at the **Zoo**.
Today, I am going to visit the American Trail exhibit.

I can follow the **orange elephant footprints** to get to American Trail.

I know I have arrived at **American Trail** when I see the American Trail sign.

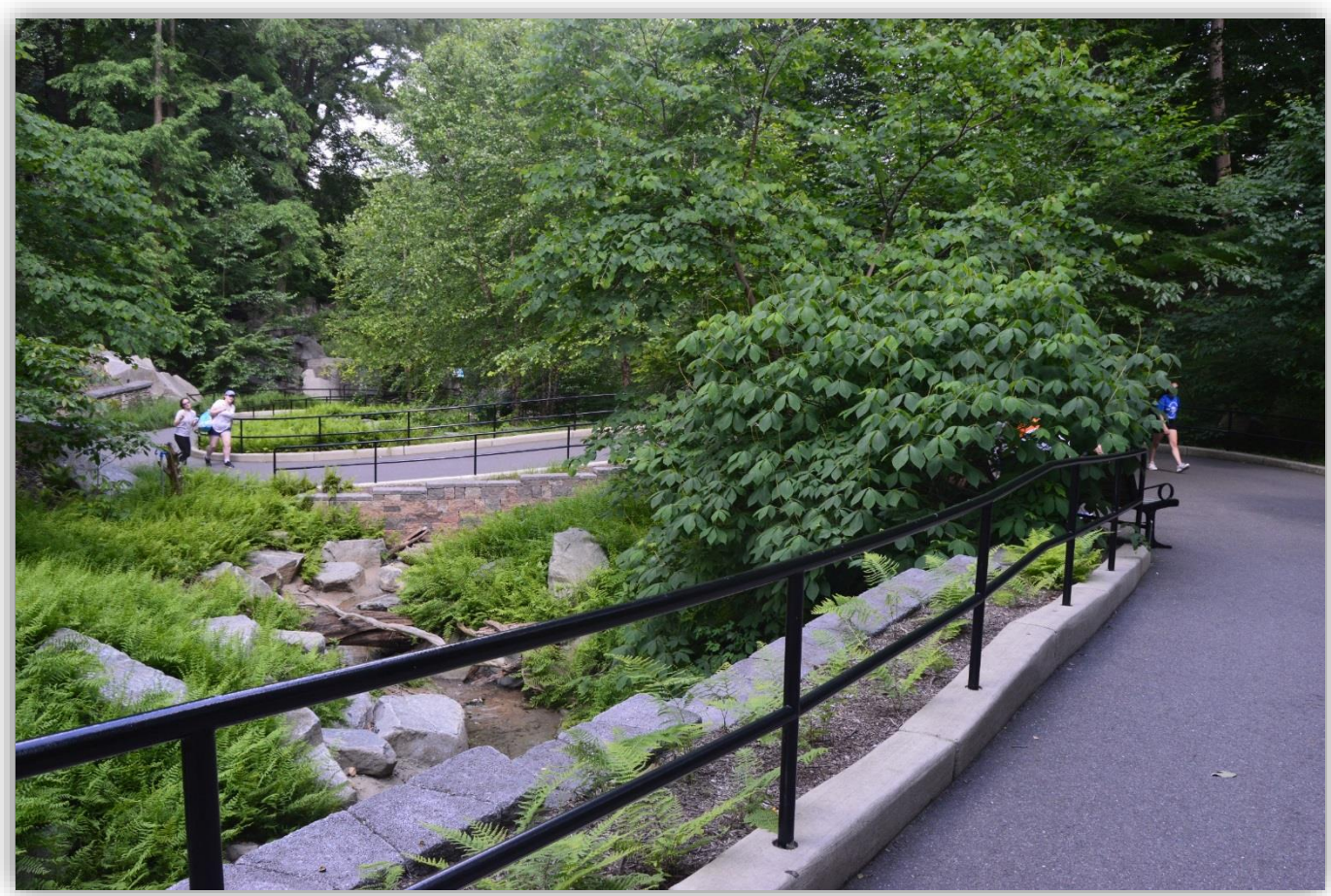
At the top of American Trail, I may see a **waterfall** which leads towards some of the exhibits. It may be loud.

I may see **signs** that tell me how to be safe when visiting American Trail. These signs will help keep the animals and visitors safe.

I may see a **volunteer** in a red shirt.

The volunteer can tell me more about the animals, and I can ask them if I need help.

They may also have objects for me to touch. If they tell me it's okay, I can touch the objects if I want to.



American Trail is on a hill, and the path has lots of **twists and turns**.
I can take a break on the benches found along the Trail, if I want.

I may see special boxes, called **crates**, in the some exhibits.
The animals can go inside to rest when they want to. Zookeepers train the animals to go into the crate. This is helpful if the animals need to be moved from one place to another.

Along American Trail, there are different **signs and graphics** that I can touch and explore to learn more about the animals.

I may see animals along the pathways of the Trail, like **squirrels** and **deer**, that are not Zoo animals.

I will not try to touch them because it is not safe to touch the animals.

The first exhibit area I may see houses the **river otters**. I may see the otters moving around quickly, swimming in water, or hiding in their den. It may smell like fish near this exhibit.

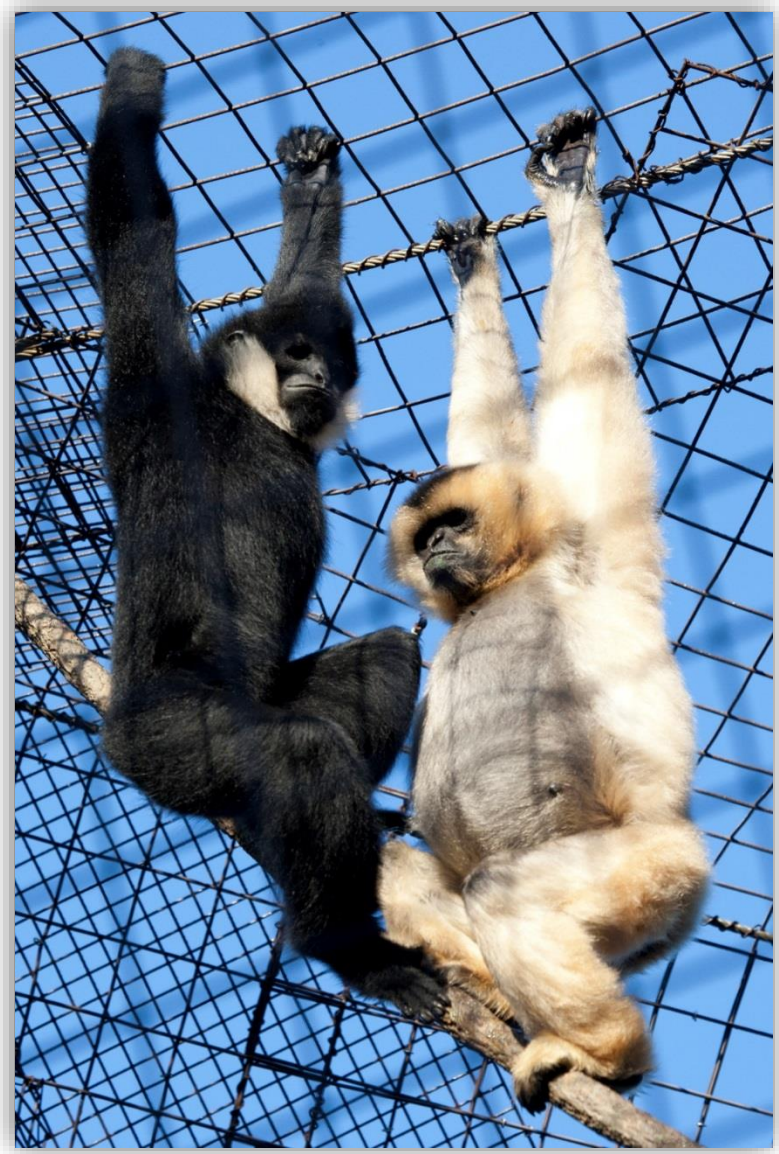
Next, I may see the **ravens**. I may see other people looking at the animals, too.

As I continue along the path, I may see the **beavers** in their exhibit. There may also be **ducks** sharing this space with them.

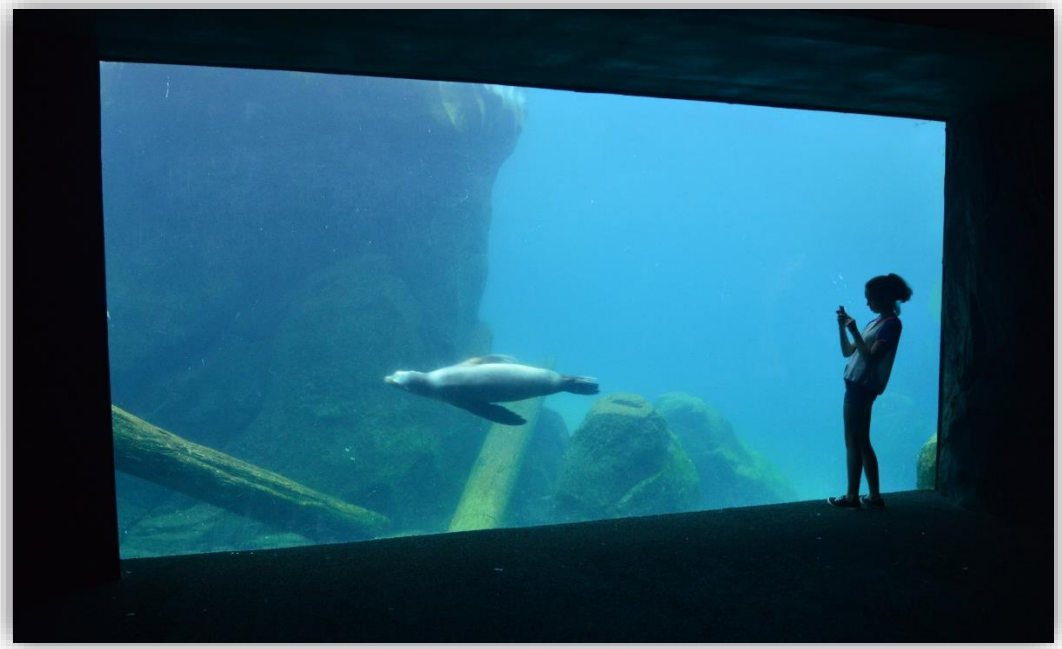
Next, I might visit the **wolf** exhibit. I can look into the yards or through the glass to see the wolves. I will not try to reach through the fence or bang on the glass.

Across from the wolves is the **bald eagle** exhibit. I may need to peek through the wooden slats to see the eagles.

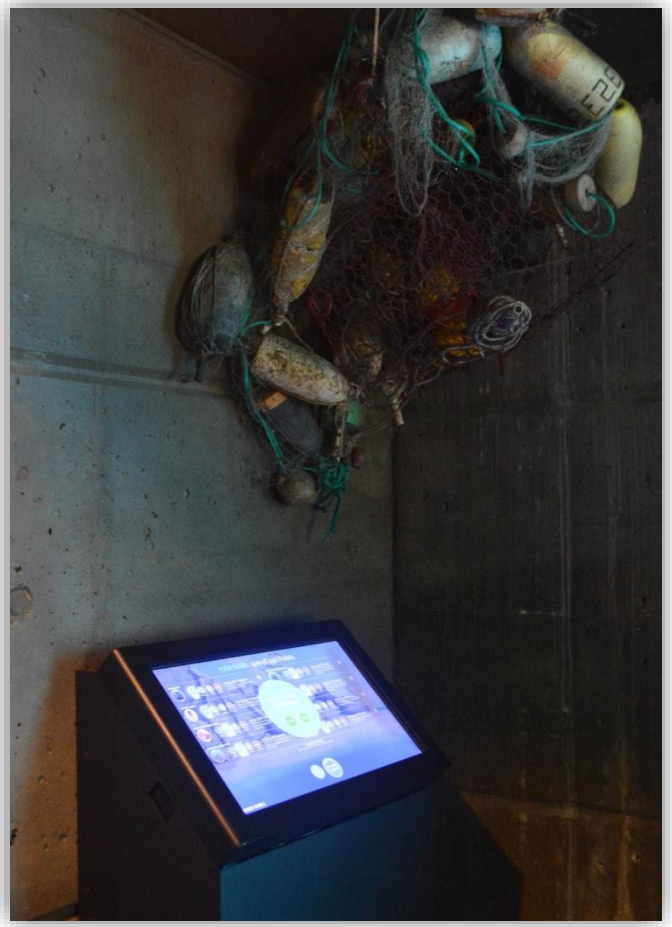
Further down the path, I may see the **seal exhibit**. The seals may be resting on their beach, or swimming in the water.



As I walk down the Trail, I may hear **gibbons** and **siamangs** who make loud calls that sound like sirens. They are not found on American Trail but, because their exhibit is close by, we can sometimes hear them. I can visit them at Gibbon Ridge, if I want.



The last exhibit I may see on American Trail houses **sea lions** and **pelicans**. I can look for them in several different areas, including an underwater viewing spot where the sea lions sometimes swim by!



In the underwater sea lion viewing area, I may be able to play an **ocean clean-up computer game**, or watch an **ocean video**.

Across from the sea lion exhibit is the **Tide Pool**, where I may be able to splash and play during warm months. The Tide Pool includes statues of starfish and sea lion sculptures that I can touch. They are not real, and cannot hurt me. There may be lots of people by the Tide Pool, and it may be noisy.

At certain times of day, I can sit down at the **Sea Lion Amphitheater** to watch a training demonstration and hear zookeepers talk about the animals. It may be crowded at this demonstration, and may be loud. I may hear zookeepers using a whistle or talking through a microphone during the demonstrations.

When I am done walking along American Trail, I can continue on to the **Andean Bear** exhibit, or turn around and head back up towards the **Elephants**.

American Trail is full of exciting North American wildlife!